

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 7-17-13

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Roger Garrison, Katrina Streiff, Ed Rohrbach

Visitor present: Lizzy Broadbent

-- MINUTES:

Minutes from the 6/19/13 meeting were approved.

--BOUNDARIES/ENCROACHMENT:

Shefflen property: Lizzy has concerns that the water issues on the property have damaged the road.

2409 Woodland Lane –Bob Wynn: Time to fence the property. A letter should be sent that states that by August 1st, should there be no easement agreement, the Committee will set up a barrier to prevent people from driving into the forest. CC should go to Civic and Trustees. Rosenthal should be brought in to consult. Reduce the amount of crusher run on the forest path.

2302 Hillside: monitoring construction on forest boundary.

2033 Marsh: soil damage needs to be repaired, removal of paving, replant. Construction is nearly done.

--BUDGET:

Information and paperwork to go to Roger.

--CALENDAR:

Spraying for poison ivy along the paths in late June. No poison ivy reports came in. Work needed at Marsh & Millers. Put info on stilt grass in Arden Page next year for July/August issue to pull it before it goes to seed.

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

Heidi's Ivy Party was great! Arden Fair booth: info for September Page, calendar literature, ideas, coasters, bumper stickers.

--DRAINAGE:

Millers Road has more areas of erosion. Pathways need work. (See grants below.)

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

DTF Grant opportunity

Delaware Land and Conservation Trust Fund Grant

Funds came in from the State for the last grant: paperwork went to Michelson.

Carol is writing a synopsis of procedures used at Marsh and Millers. May be applicable to St. Martin's Lane, Cherry Lane, and Perkins Bend (Theis, Somerville, Hoegger areas).

New Ardentown resident Ben Gruswitz, an urban planner, is working on a tree inventory and mapping for Ardentown (use www.opentreemap.org and www.phillytreemap.org).

--INVAISIVES:

Multiflora rose, stilt grass is up.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

Carol has drilled holes for drainage in compacted areas—this seems to work in some areas. Hardwood rounds “cookies” can be used for stepping stones. New design for bridges needed since scaffolding was voted too expensive.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

Lani Gibson in Buckingham Greene got an opinion from State Forester Kesha Brawnskill. She recommended that they reduce the height of the dead tree. Carol spoke to Mr. Gibson.

--ADMINISTRATIVE:

Next meeting: July 17, 2013, at 7:30 PM at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary

Addendum:

Arden Forest Committee On-Going Task/Idea List

As of 7/17/13

--BOUNDARIES:

Theis, Wynn, Broadbent and others all have encroachment issues.

Get surveys of leaseholds from the Trustees so that the Forest Committee can mark boundaries. The County has a survey of all greens and forests.

2305 Hillside: Ponte property- fence in the woods has been removed. Committee should mark forest boundary.

--CALENDAR:

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

Carol proposed an Arden forest website. Perhaps Larry Strange can help us with this. Also, a Facebook site could be created for the forest.

A website for volunteer recruitment is <http://volunteerdelaaware.org>. Jen said she would look into this.

Arden Fair booth ideas: create a calendar with photos of the Arden woods. Sand wood slices for coasters, etc.

Volunteers --are needed for the following: spread chips, cut multiflora rose, ivy clear paths.

Letters-- It was proposed that letters be sent to all residents bordering the woods (both Arden leaseholds and other communities bordering the woods) reminding them of the woods policies. Specifically, stating that no dumping, run-off into the woods, and encroachment, etc. are allowed and informing residents of the new penalty structure once we have clarified the procedures for enforcement with the NCC Police Liaison and Danny Schweers. Also needed is a letter on how and why to control non-native invasive plants, water run-off problems with suggestions to solve these issues. This should be sent along with a brochure of information on local natives, rain gardens, better species of plants for forest edge. Jennifer said that she would look into this.

Enforcement Letters: list 1.) the violation 2.) the fee 3.) consequences 4.) send a second letter with an action date 5.) Call and send letter to police/community liaison to contact violator 6.) Justice of the Peace Court 7.) Fine imposed. A list of procedures can be created online through Google Docs so that all can share in creation and editing. Coordinate this with Civic Committee for consistent enforcement.

JOINT MEETING WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING NEEDED: on hydrology, invasives, leasehold acquisition to add to forest/open space. To mitigate issues suggestions are 1) plantings and rain gardens slow run-off. 2) drywells 3) rain barrels 4) green roof workshops. Issues to talk to Civic Committee, Community Planning about are which areas in the roadways contribute to problems: talk to Trustees about which leaseholds need to be watched?

Signage was discussed to help raise awareness of Forest Committee projects. A sign at or near the Marsh and Millers site stating, "Forest Committee Restoration Area," was proposed.

--DRAINAGE: 1905 Millers --Schefflen: Pipe is still there. Driveway is paved, machinery stored. Discussed moving pipe over the phone. He was informed that our land manager and DNREC said it was not a good site for a rain garden due to the slope of the land, and that his small back yard would have to be the location of a new rain garden. Other sites of concern are Tocco and Aumack leaseholds.

We are waiting for news about the Buckingham Greene lawsuit settlement.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

--INVAISIVES (see web-based calendar for updates)

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE: Poison Ivy suppression needed near Marsh and Millers, Highway path, behind Heidi Hoegger's. Chips need to be spread near Mullinax property.

Katrina proposed starting a Forest Committee "Tool Library" in which community members would be able to borrow tools such as a flame weeder, metal detector, or weed wrench. Use of a shed or part of a shed would be needed. The feasibility of getting a shed on BWVC property or elsewhere was discussed.

Jen said her son could work on some of the bridges this summer for a Boy Scout project.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

--ADMINISTRATIVE: